

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED POSS DUPE

PAGE 01 CALGAR 00017 161656Z

61

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-11 INT-08 FEA-02 COME-00 TRSE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 DRC-01

/126 W

----- 117633

R 161421Z JAN 74

FM AMCONSUL CALGARY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 902

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

UNCLAS CALGARY 017 JAN 15

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, CA

SUBJ: ALBERTA OIL SANDS

1. IN A PRESS CONFERENCE IN CALGARY JANUARY 14, PREMIER PETER LOUGHEED ANNOUNCED THE CREATION OF THE ALBERTA OIL SANDS TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH AUTHORITY TO ACCUMULATE AND COORDINATE THE KNOWLEDGE TO HARNESS THE GIANT IN THE EARTH OF NORTHERN ALBERTA, THE DEEP SEATED OIL SANDS. REFERRING TO THIS INITIATIVE AS "OUR ENERGY BREAKTHROUGH PROJECT" THE PREMIER PREDICTED IT WILL HAVE A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THE NORTH AMERICAN ENERGY PICTURE. THE PROJECT IS CHARGED WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY TO ACHIEVE THE BREAKTHROUGH IN RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY ESSENTIAL TO GUARANTEE PRODUCTION OF THAT PART OF THE OIL SANDS THAT CANNOT BE RECOVERED THROUGH A SURFACE MINING PROCESS. THE PREMIER ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT DLLRS 100 MILLION HAS BEEN COMMITTED TO THE AUTHORITY OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS.

2. THE AUTHORITY WILL BE BASED IN CALGARY TO COORDINATE ITS EFFORTS WITH THE ALBERTA ENERGY RESOURCES CONSERVATION BOARD, THE ALBERTA RESEARCH COUNCIL, AND THE PROPOSED ENERGY INSTITUTE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY AND IS EXPECTED TO BRING TOGETHER SOME OF THE BEST TECHNICAL PERSONNEL ON THE CONTINENT. WORK IS UNCLASSIFIED
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 CALGAR 00017 161656Z

EXPECTED TO GET UNDER WAY IN 1974. IT WILL ATTEMPT TO CONTRACT MOST OF ITS RESEARCH TO PRIVATE INDUSTRY BUT WILL DO ITS OWN WORK

IF NECESSARY. BENEFITS WILL BE BUILT INTO THE GOVERNMENT'S ROYALTY STRUCTURE FOR COMPANIES RESEARCHING OIL SANDS TECHNOLOGY.

3. THE NEWS RELEASE ON THE PROJECT, THE FULL TEXT OF WHICH IS BEING SUBMITTED BY AIRGRAM, DESCRIBED THE ALBERTA OIL SANDS AS FORMING THE LARGEST KNOWN RESERVES OF PETROLEUM COMPOUNDS IN THE WORLD, THE FOUR AREAS OF NORTHERN ALBERTA TOGETHER CONTAINING 900 BILLION BARRELS OF CRUDE BITUMENT. IF EVEN ONE THIRD OF THIS COULD BE RECOVERED THE YIELD WOULD EQUAL NEARLY ONE HALF OF THE WORLD'S KNOWN RESERVES OF CONVENTIONAL CRUDE OIL. MINING OPERATIONS SUCH AS GREAT CANADIAN OIL SANDS AND SYNCRUDE CAN DEVELOP ONLY ABOUT ONE TENTH OF THE SYNTHETIC CRUDE POTENTIALLY RECOVERABLE FROM THE OIL SANDS.

4. THE PREMIER'S STATEMENT DURING THE PRESS CONFERENCE, "WE HAVE A HEAD START NOW OVER THE COLORADO OIL SHALES" REVEALS THAT COMPETITION PRESENTED BY UNITED STATES RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT OF OIL SHALES WAS A FACTOR IN INITIATING THE PROJECT.

5. THE ANNOUNCEMENT AT THIS TIME OF A MAJOR NEW STEP "TO MANAGE THE ENERGY RESOURCES OWNED BY THE PEOPLE OF OUR PROVINCE" SEEMS TO DISMISS ANY IDEA THAT ALBERTA MIGHT COMPROMISE ON THE OWNERSHIP OF RESOURCES PRINCIPLE DURING THE OTTAWA ENERGY TALKS NEXT WEEK.

6. AN ACT CONTAINING TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE AUTHORITY'S OPERATIONS WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE 1974 SESSION OF THE ALBERTA LEGISLATURE.

7. ALBERTA MINES AND MINERALS MINISTER WILLIAM DICKIE, WHEN ASKED ABOUT THE USE OF ATOMIC EXPLOSIONS TO EXTRACT OIL, SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO WATCH WITH INTEREST THE DEVELOPMENTS IN THAT FIELD.
PULVER

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RESEARCH, ENERGY, PETROLEUM, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974CALGAR00017
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: CALGARY
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740139/aaaabkgb.tel
Line Count: 95
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kellerpr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 JUN 2002 by daviscw>; APPROVED <02 JUL 2002 by kellerpr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ALBERTA OIL SANDS
TAGS: ENRG, CA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005